

The only "true" ISPs are the local or regional ISPs. They offer services that the baby bells cannot, and more importantly, they offer real customer service with knowledgeable support folks. These ISPs do not hurt the bells since the bells make nearly the same amount of money on connection fees, but do not have to deal with customer questions and issues. These ISPs helped make the Internet what it is today, and they need the chance to survive. They also provide much needed jobs. Preventing local ISPs from phone line access will wipe out competition. All we will be left with are two choices: cable and a baby bell; neither of which provide the features and service needed by the truly web literate folks. Please do not eliminate fair competition! Reasonable access at a reasonable price is a smart and reasonable policy that protects and benefits all.